

1952

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

The Bayside Presbyterian Church

The history of women's work at Robbins Corner Chapel began in 1949. The record states, "The Women's Circle met at the home of Mrs. E. L. Hudgins, on March 22. They organized and elected officers:

Chairman: Mrs. E. L. Hudgins

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. E. D. Ney

Other members present were: Mrs. Bergner, Mrs. Hilda Howard, Mrs. Fentress, Mrs. Mayle and Mrs. Greer. Mrs. Charter Wells volunteered to give the Bible Study Lessons. The women decided to meet monthly at the home of the members. The designated Bible Study for the year 1949-1950 was 'These Things Abide', Studies in the Gospel of John.

"In April, Mrs. E. G. Wear was elected Co-chairman. Each member was asked to bring a new member."

In June, Mrs. Wear offered to attend the Women's Training School at Massanetta as delegate. The expenses were \$40.00; the East Ocean View Women of the Church gave \$15.00 for her transportation and Robbins Corner Circle gave \$25.00.

For many months the women were busy with money-making projects; "those were the days of such activities".

Within two years this method of making money was discarded for a better and more effective way. The spirit of giving grew and became a reality as the voluntary offerings at the monthly meetings increased. On October 9, the Women's Circle of Robbins

Corner presented a Communion Set to the Chapel "In loving memory of Alice Temple Greer", the first of the little group to pass away. The cost was \$44.75, and the engraving cost \$9.00.

In December, 1949, there is this note, "After the Christmas program we had a song service at the Church, and Santa Claus gave candy and fruit to the children". Mrs. Gilbert Hedgepeth gave a piano to the Chapel and the Circle had it repaired and tuned at a cost of \$65.00.

From the earliest minutes we read the following: "The Circle did not grow in numbers, but the members were faithful and visited, trying to bring new members to the Chapel and Circle".

The Women of East Ocean View Church sponsored the Robbins Corner Circle from the beginning. Mrs. Charter Wells was helpful and came each month to give the Bible Study. Mrs. R. Allen Brown, the minister's wife, came to the February, 1950 meeting for the first time, and was likewise helpful in many ways. The friendship of these two women is a loving memory in the hearts of members of this Circle.

New officers were elected to take office April 1. They were: Chairman, Mrs. E. G. Wear; Co-chairman, Mrs. H. H. Howard; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. E. D. Ney. Mrs. Wear attended Massanetta again as a delegate in the summer of 1950.

There followed many months of varying activities and the record shows "The women bought carpet for the Pulpit, at a cost of \$49.00; attended a White Cross work day at Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church; bought ornaments for the Christmas tree; packed a Christmas box for a twelve-year old boy at the Presbyterian Home in Lynchburg".

Rev. Mr. Harper, missionary from Korea, by invitation preached at the Chapel, Sunday evening, February 15, 1951; an offering was taken and presented to him for his work; the amount was \$22.83. Mrs. E. G. Wear and Mrs. E. D. Ney were re-elected to their respective offices for 1951.

At the monthly meeting, May 17, 1951, Mrs. Emurian first visited the Circle by invitation. Later she was invited to lead several Circle Bible Studies.

The Circle continued to meet in the homes. Members were encouraged when a new face appeared and new help was offered.

1952

Friday, February 29, the Circle observed "World Day of Prayer" for the first time at the home of Mrs. Sanders. The regularly prepared program was followed, and the women felt their one-ness with Christian women around the world; there were eight present.

The nominating committee, consisting of Mesdames Green, Enoch and A. H. Young, met January 27, and prepared a slate of new officers for the Circle, to take office April 1, 1952. At the monthly Circle meeting, February 20, their report was presented as follows:

President:	Mrs. S. K. Emurian
Vice-President:	Mrs. N. F. Krippendorf
Secretary:	Mrs. George Goodman
Treasurer:	Mrs. Ernest D. Ney
Historian:	Mrs. H. J. Greer

These officers were elected at this meeting, and formally installed on Sunday, March 23, by Rev. Mr. Emurian. There were

sixteen present at this February meeting.

New wine-colored draperies were hung on the wall back of the Pulpit, and were in use for the first time Sunday, March 16. They were placed there by the Women's Circle. They were beautiful! This loving gift was from the women who gave sacrificially to add beauty and dignity to the Sanctuary; the cost was \$80.00.

Robbins Corner women became members of the Women of the Church, Norfolk Presbytery, at the 50th anniversary meeting, held in Norfolk, in First Presbyterian Church, April 24-25, 1952. Six of our members attended. We were the 50th Women's Church group to become members of this organization. We continued to function as Circle Number One and Women of the Church, holding one monthly meeting, and carrying on the business and program of both. We were looking forward to the future, as we were growing in both numbers and devotion, to the time when two circles would be necessary. Our activities increased. The women volunteered to care for the Church-time Nursery; later the Session secured a regular attendant for this work. Flowers for the Sanctuary each Sunday and for special occasions was a regular service of love rendered by the women.

May 4, four members attended the meeting at Lynnhaven Presbyterian Church, at which time the Princess Anne Council of Church Women was organized. There were fifty Church women present, representing nine Churches and four denominations. We became Charter members of this organization at this meeting.

The Fall Group Conference met at Lafayette Presbyterian Church, on September 30, and five of our members attended. This was our first, as an independent group. Mrs. Emurian gave

the following narrative report: "Robbins Corner Chapel, Women of the Church, your youngest child, salutes you! We have a goodly heritage in you, the older strong Churches. East Ocean View Church is our Mother Church. We report our stewardship: Sent one delegate to Massanetta -- Four boxes of clothing to overseas relief -- Cash gifts to Presbyterian Home in Lynchburg and Sunnyside Presbyterian Home -- Gave new wine-colored draperies that hang behind the Pulpit in the Sanctuary -- We teach in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School -- There are ten subscribers to 'The Survey' -- Joined the recently organized Princess Anne Council of Church Women -- Growing numerically and in influence -- Giving is increasing. Behold how much enthusiasm a few women can kindle!"

The need was felt for a correct roll, with names, addresses and phone numbers of the women of the Circle and congregation. At the September meeting we began an Attendance Register, each one attending signing up. On the Circle Roll, the Secretary lists these as active members: Mesdames Emurian, Krippendorf, Ney, A. H. Young, Greer, Guthrie, Crow, Pitman, Starks, Goodman, Graham, Jr., Bohner, Duvall, Lane, Sherwood. Visitors' names appeared at many of the meetings.

For the new Church Year, we ordered Day-by-Day, Bible Study Leader's Books, Packets of Literature, and suggested Constitution and By-laws.

As time passed, the Circle came to follow more closely the pattern of Circle and Women of the Church organization. We began to follow the Church calendar with designated seasons for study as outlined by the General Assembly of the Church. Mrs. George

Goodman was our first delegate to Massanetta.

The use of Blessing Boxes for individual Thank-Offering gifts was inaugurated, and the women decided to bring them in twice a year. The first Blessing-Box Day, October 21, 1952, the boxes were brought in and found to contain \$45.09. These boxes, together with our voluntary monthly offerings and special gifts, constitute our sources of income as an organization.

In November we ordered 250 mimeographed cards to be prepared, to be sent out monthly as Circle announcements. We came to enjoy several occasions of social fellowship in the growing Church family. Church family night suppers, meetings with the husbands in members' homes, melon feasts, weenie roasts, and other such activities fostered the growing spirit of Christian fellowship. As new women came to our meetings, they soon became a part of us. Christian enthusiasm was contagious! Our December meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Krippendorf. There were sixteen present. For three years we enjoyed these Christmas meetings with the same hostess.
